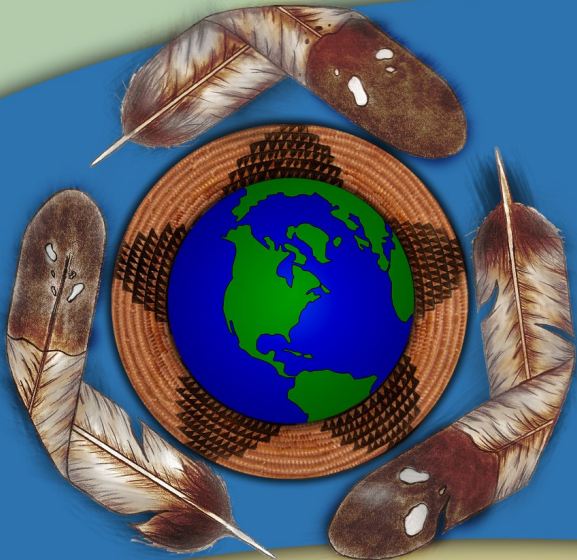


Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

Vol. 8 | Fall | 2011

Inside this issue

- Cars and the Environment
- Reducing Waste During the Holidays
- Watersheds
- The Dangers of Scrap Tires



Cham Tema

“Our Land”

Soboba Tribal Environmental Department

The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians' Tribal Environmental Department is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural resources on the Soboba Reservation for all Tribal Members: past, present, and future.





Printed on 100% Recycled Paper





Cars and the Environment


The holidays can be a season of a lot of driving. Shopping for gifts, trying to find a space in a crowded parking lot, visiting family, or taking a road trip can result in extra people on the road and extra pollutant emissions in the air. The best thing to do is limit using your car by taking public transportation, combining trips, or walking. Leaving your car at home just two days a week will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1,600 pounds per year. If driving is absolutely necessary, below are some ways to reduce your car's environmental impact.


 Check your fluid levels, tires for tread wear and proper inflation, and for drips and leaks. Proper maintenance will reduce pollution.


 If you change your own motor oil, collect and store the used oil in a sturdy plastic container and take it to a recycling center. Dumping oil down storm drains or on the ground can contaminate water.


 Purchase extended-life antifreeze for your car. Most extended-life coolants do not contain silicates and phosphates that can be abrasive to water pump seals. Take your used anti-freeze to a recycling center.


 Take used or damaged car batteries to auto stores that stock or repair car batteries for safe disposal. The batteries contain toxic amounts of lead and acid and are banned from landfills.

 Return used car tires to retailers or wholesalers that recycle or retread them. Illegally dumped tires become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other pests.


 Join or form car/vanpools for traveling to work or school. Fewer cars on the road mean less pollution.


 Make sure your car has a clean air filter - a dirty air filter can increase your car's fuel consumption by 10 percent.


 Quick acceleration and heavy braking can reduce fuel economy by up to 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent around town.


 For every two minutes a car is idling, it uses


about the same amount of fuel it takes to go one mile. Idling gets ZERO miles per gallon. If you are going to be parked for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.


 Driving at higher speeds increases wind resistance, reducing fuel economy. Pollution is at its highest up to 15 mph. It then decreases up to 60 mph and then starts to rise again over 60 mph. So stick to the speed limit but look to drive between 50mph and 60mph where legally possible to keep emissions down.


 Frequent short trips can reduce fuel economy, since your engine doesn't operate efficiently until it is warmed up. On short trips, your vehicle operates a smaller percentage of time at the desired temperature.


 Cargo or cargo racks on top of your vehicle increase aerodynamic drag and lower fuel economy.

 Towing a trailer or carrying excessive weight decreases fuel economy.

 Running electrical accessories decreases fuel economy. Operating the air conditioner on "Max" can reduce mpg by roughly 5-25% compared to not using it.

 Driving on hilly or mountainous terrain or on unpaved roads can reduce fuel economy.

 Using 4-wheel drive reduces fuel economy. Engaging all four wheels makes the engine work harder and increases crankcase losses.

 Upgrading your fuel economy from 18 mpg to 25 mpg saves you up to \$2,100 in annual fuel costs and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.



Reducing Waste During the Holidays

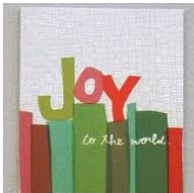


Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills every year. Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell

store clerks you don't need a bag for small or over-sized purchases.



Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or newspapers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.



Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of new paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.



About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Re-

chargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.



Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.



To help prevent waste from cutting down and disposing of live trees, you can buy a potted tree and plant it after the holidays.



Have a create-your-own-decorations party! Invite family and friends to create and use holiday decorations such as ornaments made from old greeting cards or cookie dough,

garlands made from strung popcorn or cranberries, wreaths made from artificial greens and flowers, and potpourri made from kitchen spices such as cinnamon and cloves.



When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.



Look for the Energy Star products that save the recipient money. You can find the Energy Star label on nearly all entertainment products from TVs and Blu-ray disc players to home-theaters-in-a-box. If you are in the market for a digital picture frame, consider one that has earned the Energy Star. It uses 25 percent less energy than non-qualified models.



Look for the Energy Star label on LED decorative light strings to meet your holiday decorating needs. Qualified light strings use about 70 percent less electricity than incandescent light strings and are available in a variety of colors, shapes, and lengths. These Energy Star qualified light strings save energy and are more durable, shock-resistant and cooler to the touch.



If you are giving electronics, encourage gift recipients to reuse or recycle their old electronics, allowing the valuable materials within to be used again in new products while helping to save natural resources. Check out EPA's Plug-In To eCycling initiative for more information on how to safely recycle electronics, including cell phones, computers, and TVs.

Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money.



Watersheds

If you have any questions on information in the newsletter or any other environmental concerns contact:

Soboba Tribal Environmental Department

Erica Helms-Schenk
Environmental Director
(951) 654-5544 ext 4129
ehelms@soboba-nsn.gov

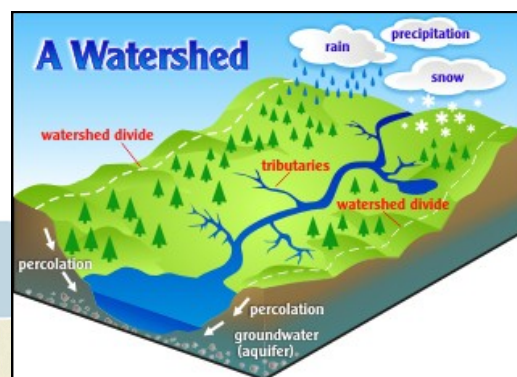
23906 Soboba Rd
San Jacinto, CA 92583
P.O. Box 487
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Have you ever heard the word “watershed” used and wondered what it meant? The following information is from the US Geologic Survey:

Natural features, such as topography, define watersheds—land areas that receive rain or snow and drain to specific surface-water bodies, such as streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, bays, or oceans. Both natural and human-induced conditions within the watershed are reflected in the quality of the surface water. While many federal and state agencies focus on the larger river systems and associated watersheds, local agencies and citizens usually are concerned with the smaller watersheds where they live. A standardized watershed classification system—the Hydrologic Unit System—was developed in the mid-1970s by USGS. Hydrologic units are a topographically defined set of watershed boundaries, organized by

size. The system divides the Nation into 21 regions, and progressively smaller sub-regions, accounting units, and cataloging units. Each cataloging unit is assigned an 8-digit code (HUC) having two digits for each of the four levels. Soboba is in the San Jacinto Watershed HUC 18070202.

More from the USGS about water can be found at <http://water.usgs.gov/> or EPA’s watershed information can be found at <http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/>.



The Danger of Scrap Tires

The site of a used tire lying by the side of the road or in the middle of a field is a relatively common site. Many people don’t think about the environmental or health hazards that can come with scrap tires, but there are several that might concern most of us. The curved shape of a tire allows rain-water to collect and creates an ideal habitat for rodents and mosquitoes. These pests can carry diseases which can spread to humans.

Tires pose even more hazards when several are left piled together. A tire’s physical structure, durability, and heat-retaining characteristics make these stockpiles a potential threat to human health and the environment. Prone to heat retention, tires in stockpiles also can ignite, creating tire fires that are difficult to extinguish and can burn for months, generating unhealthy smoke and toxic oils. Illegal tire dumping pollutes ravines, woods, deserts, and empty lots.

For these reasons, it is important we think about how to get rid of used tires. Tires can be recycled into several useful things. There are currently at

least 110 new products that contain recyclable tire rubber. The fastest growing markets are play-ground cover, soil additives (adding fine, shredded tire pieces to soil for various purposes), flooring/matting, and landfill construction material. Rubberized asphalt also uses a large number of scrap tires each year—many state departments of transportation are using tire material in highway construction. Tires can be taken to the landfill (separately from other types of trash and no more than 9 at one time) or when you buy new tires, leave the old ones with the dealer, who will see that the tires are reused, recycled, or disposed of properly. The Environmental Department can also help you find a way to get rid of your scrap tires or you can try recycling sites such as <http://earth911.com/> or <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/>.

